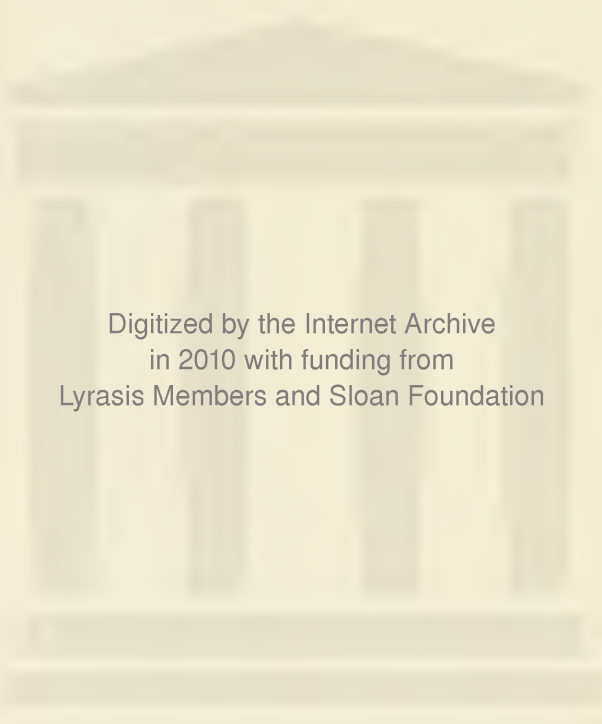






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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 8th, 1860.

Read and ordered to be printed.

MINORITY REPORT

OF

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

TO WHICH WAS

REFERRED A MEMORIAL RELATIVE TO THE PROSECUTION OF EMANUEL
MYERS AND OTHERS, IN PENNSYLVANIA, CHARGED WITH
THE KIDNAPPING OF CERTAIN FUGITIVE SLAVES.

R E P O R T .

The undersigned, a member of the Select Committee of the House to which was referred the memorial of Bradley T. Johnson, Esq., in relation to the prosecution of certain persons in Pennsylvania, charged with kidnapping fugitive slaves, coincides with the majority of the said Committee in the statements expressed by them in their report, that "the insult to the soil of the State, the disregard of her sovereign rights, and the outrage perpetrated on her citizens in the capture of Myers, calls for prompt and decided action." He also unites with the majority in recommending "that the Governor be requested to appoint counsel to initiate and take charge of such proceedings under the laws of Maryland as will bring the perpetrators of this great wrong to that condign punishment which such an act deserves."

The undersigned believes, however, that the objects contemplated by the entire Committee, as indicated by the majority report and the resolutions accompanying the same, can be better and more efficiently accomplished by submitting the whole matter to the Governor, with the request that he take such action as in his discretion the nature of the case requires.

He is convinced that a correspondence conducted in a spirit of conciliation and firmness between the Governors of this State and of Pennsylvania, will result in the happiest consequences and effectuate all that is to be desired, and will save the State the expense which will necessarily accrue on the appointment of Commissioners. Believing that the Governor of this State will faithfully and expeditiously perform his duty in this behalf, and that his application to the Executive of Pennsylvania will be acted upon to the satisfaction

of all the citizens of this State, he respectfully submits the following resolutions, the first resolution being the same submitted by the majority :

1. Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor be and he is hereby requested to cause such proceedings to be had in relation to the parties who captured Emanuel Myers, a citizen of Maryland, as stated by the Governor in his message to this General Assembly, as will determine their liability to the laws of this State, and bring them to trial, if liable thereto.

2. Resolved, That the Governor of the State be requested to communicate to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the facts relative to the indictment now pending in the Court of Quarter Sessions of the county of Cumberland therein, against George W. Strasburger, William H. Smith, Isaiah Baker and John A. Warfield, citizens of Maryland, for kidnapping certain fugitive slaves, and invoke him to interpose in such manner as will effectually protect said parties from further prosecution or penalty therefor; and that the Governor be instructed to endeavor to procure from the authorities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania such action as will provide for a submission of all questions involving rights secured under the 4th article, 2d section and 3d clause of the Constitution of the United States, as they arise in the courts of that Commonwealth, to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

J. W. GORSUCH.

